

Afterword

Jon Woodend, Maisha M. Syeda

University of Calgary

Within academic circles, it is widely accepted that diverse perspectives contribute to a broad knowledge-base in the field, which results in innovative ways forward. The articles in this Special Issue are exemplary of this idea, as each casts light on previously shadowed areas of exploration. Importantly, each article is grounded in personal experience with a focus on supporting the community. This commitment and success in conducting such rewarding research is astonishing given the challenges newcomer scholars can face in academia, as noted by Lena, the lead editor for the Special Issue, in her introduction. We, Maisha and Jon, would like to thank the authors and Lena for their generosity in sharing their experiences and research in service of moving their respective conversations.

This Special Issue highlights the unique research contributions and journeys of our authors, and each of the contributions easily compels us to note the importance of supporting these conversations, regardless of whether this is a research area of personal interest. Haggerty's writing emphasized that the learning and teaching French as a foreign language with a group of students in Uganda expanded beyond the basics and complexities of linguistic training, and the integration of the learner's and the teacher's cultures and narratives was almost organic to the process. Lei's work with internationally educated Chinese academic returnees highlighted the tensions between the academics' preferences to grow as scholars through collaborations versus the government's competing motivation to internationalize their knowledge-base and research institutes. Kojo Otoo, on the other hand, shared the challenges and successes of male, Ghanaian newcomers seeking employment in Canada to formulate recommendations for immigration reform for skilled immigrants. Wang and Walsh wrote about the bereavement adjustments of elderly Chinese newcomers to highlight the importance of family and community supports to cope with spousal loss as well as to advocate for culturally safe and relevant services to support grieving. Finally, Kusari reflected about and argued for how in-between identities and realities of emerging newcomer scholars could enrich their contributions as transdisciplinary academics. Together, these contributions enrich our global academic knowledge and advance the respective fields forward in meaningful ways.

A high level take-away from this Special Issue echoes the message from Dr. Kawalilak in her forward to the Special Issue: In the wake of polarizing political and societal shifts that directly affect newcomer scholars, how can academia support them and their vital research? As editors, our hope is that this Special Issue illustrates one such example of honoring newcomer scholars' journeys and expertise as researchers, and creating a meaningful platform to disseminate their voices within academic, while simultaneously creating avenues for them to gain critical publishing knowledge and experience. Thank you again to the authors for their contributions to this Special Issue, and we, the editors, are looking forward to their continuing contributions within their respective fields.